Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government will be pleased to order that the statement as published in the Gazette may be published in future?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* That relates to a question of policy and therefore does not arise.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, what was the point in taking exception to the publication of this statement?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Nobody has taken exception. The question was asked whether Government ordered the publication and it was already answered that it was published without Government orders. Nobody has taken exception to it.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* I want to know whether the Hon'ble Member Mr. Iyyunni has objection.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* I do not take objection to it. There is only this much. Will the Government be pleased to publish such a statement?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* That is exactly where I say that it raises a question of policy.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know why this thing was got prepared by the Head of the Department and wrongly published in the Gazette?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* For his own use.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* If that news will be of some use to us, why not the Government also publish it in the Gazette?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Same answer, *viz.*, that it is a question of policy.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* So the Government is not prepared to let us know what exactly is the communal ratio with regard to appointments made by that officer.

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* It is an inference not warranted by the basic data.

AIR RAID SHELTERS—ERNAKULAM AND MATTANCHERI

193. Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether it has considered the advisability of collecting public subscriptions for the construction of air raid shelters at Ernakulam and Mattancheri;

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(*b*) whether it has prepared an estimate of the cost of constructing air raid shelters at Ernakulam and Mattancheri, and if so, what is the cost estimated?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government)*:

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No. Estimates are being prepared.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: I request permission to ask the question standing in the name of Mr. M. K. Devassy, as he is absent today.

Mr. President: There is no authorisation.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: It is left to the President to allow or disallow a question standing in the name of a particular member.

Mr. President: Well, I don't find any objection to your asking that question.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: In answer to sub-division (*a*), it is stated that the advisability of taking public subscriptions has not been considered. Is it because all expenditure is proposed to be met by the Government?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government)*: Such expenditure as Government thinks necessary will be borne by it.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Has the Government got any plan in the matter of construction of public air raid shelters?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government)*: Two air raid shelters have been experimentally constructed and inspected by the head of the administration.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: Has the Government got a plan of work of providing public air raid shelters for the whole of Ernakulam and Mattancheri?

Mr. President: It is not necessary to provide air raid shelters for the whole of Ernakulam and Mattancheri. Houses are usually the best shelters. We are constructing two zig-zag slit trenches as an experimental measure as air raid shelters. Sites for others have been selected.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi)*: It was with reference to this that I wanted to know whether the Government have got a settled plan for all the localities. May I ask when they propose to finish the work?

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Mr. President : In a few days. The work has already been started and it will be finished as early as possible.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* In these emergent times, when do you propose to finish the work? The Public Works Department must be made to work and they must be compelled to do it in no time. We can't wait.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* We have already started the construction of shelters.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* You have started only one or two. How many do you propose to construct and when do you propose to finish it ?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* We have started in five places already.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* My question is, when you propose to finish it ?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* It will be finished in a week.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* How many, I wish to know.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* To accommodate 8,600 people.

Mr. President : I think that is a mistake, you are referring to evacuation centres.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* I meant evacuation centres. I do not know what the hon'ble member meant.

Mr. President : He was referring to air raid shelters.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar *(Offg. Chief Engineer):* We are constructing slit trenches, one here and another at Mattancheri.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I want to know whether Government has got a definite plan of making air raid shelters which will serve the public all over Ernakulam and Mattancheri. And my second question is, when you propose to finish those works ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there any need to provide for all those people ?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* As the President has explained, the matter has engaged the attention of the Government. The best form of shelter, two slit trenches, have been constructed and they have been inspected. If these are suitable, action will be taken to expand them.

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Mr. President : I think we have already fixed the position where the further slit trenches should be at Ernakulam and Mattancheri. We have to be careful in chosing the sites. They have to be well selected and protected. We are proposing to construct as far as we possibly can a sufficient number of trenches and make other arrangements for the protection of the people.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* I want to know when the Government propose to finish the work.

Mr. President : It is impossible to answer.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* May I request the Government to finish it at least in two or three days ?

Mr. President : The chances of air raid attack are remote.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* It may be very remote. But, are we going to leave ourselves to luck, or are we going to be guarded in time ? There have been very many surprises all over the world. I want the Cochin Government to see that they are not driven to such pitiable position as the people of Burma, Singapore or other places.

Mr. President : There were many slit trenches in Rangoon.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* But I find none completed in Ernakulam, even though Singapore fell a few days ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are not these trenches only for the purpose of those who are out in the street ? All the people are asked to be inside their houses. Then what is the need of so many trenches all over the place. The private people may make their own trenches in their houses.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Has the Government advised the private people to have their own trenches ?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* Instructions as to what should be done have been issued.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Beyond those pamphlets, is the Government aware whether any of the people are providing themselves with shelters ?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* You are passing on to another question. Your first question is whether you have advised.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* It was said that in the case of private persons, for the majority of them, their own houses are their shelters. They have, most of them, thatched, mud houses. Am I to understand that something more is meant ? It must be the construction of secure places, not thatched houses for air raid

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shelters. Does the Government really realise the situation, the danger to which Ernakulam and Cochin is exposed? That is what I actually want to know.

Mr. President : The situation is fully realised.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Have they taken the necessary steps?

Mr. President : We have been taking the necessary steps, in the best way possible.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Is this the way—thinking of models of trenches, and just locating the places for constructing them?

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ADMINISTRATION REPORT—UPLIFT DEPARTMENT

194. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli) :* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the latest administration report of the Department of Uplift of the Depressed Classes is available as a printed publication; to which year does it relate;

(*b*) whether the Government have stopped the printing and publication of the administration reports of the Uplift Department; if so when it was stopped and for what reasons?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government) :*

(*a*) No. 1116.

(*b*) Yes. From 1114 onwards. The printing was discontinued as a measure of retrenchment in expenditure.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, the Administration Reports of how many departments are being printed at present?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is only the Administration Reports of 8 departments that are now printed.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli) :* May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that in Indian Provinces and States, the work done for the Depressed Classes by the Cochin Government was very much appreciated on account of the fact that we made publicity with regard to this department in former years?